

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

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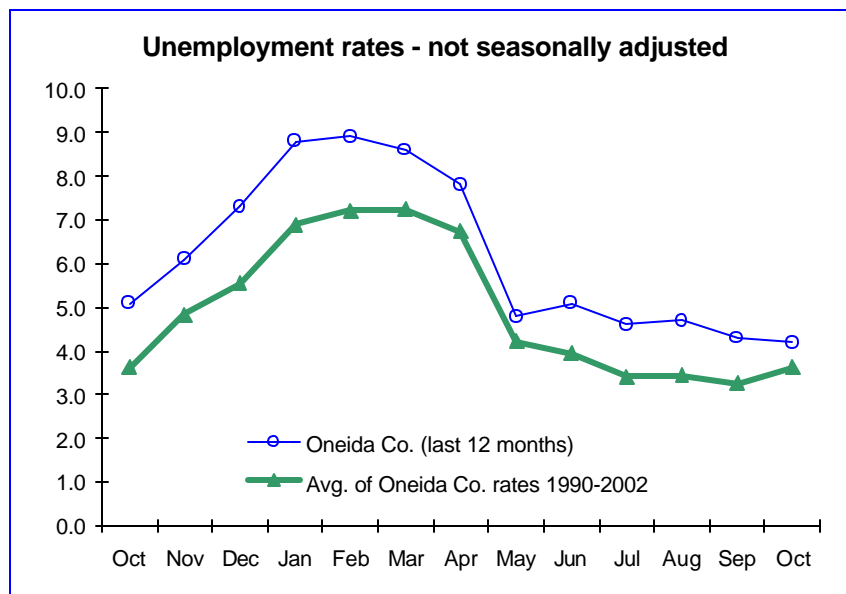
State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

Unemployment rates edge closer to typical levels

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In October, **Columbia County** saw its unemployment rate rise more slightly than it typically does in October leaving it 0.8 percent above the typical October level. This is not nearly as far above typical levels as July and August, but still further above typical than last October through this May. Leisure & hospitality gained more jobs this summer than last and has shed jobs more quickly this fall than last. Nonetheless, over half the October-to-October job growth was in this sector. Manufacturing didn't

add as many jobs this summer as last and remains below last year's employment levels. Retail & wholesale trade posted fewer than jobs last year from January to August, so it is a positive sign to see September and October figures higher than their 2002 counterparts.



Dane County's unemployment rate fell more sharply than usual, and sits 0.7 percent above its typical October level, which is much less than in July and August and is more consistent with performance from last October through this May. Retail trade's 1-month job gain was larger than any in 2002 or 2003. Moreover, the sector reached a higher number of jobs than at any point in 2002 or 2003. This is

consistent with national reports of retailers' high hopes for the holiday season. While still above its October 2002 level, manufacturing saw the largest 1-month decrease of 2002 or 2003. A loss of 900 manufacturing jobs is more than Dane County usually sees from September to November.

Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Oct 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Oct 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Oct 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Oct 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	3,094,200	5,400	77,900	457,200	-1,400	16,900	29,300	0	1,300	293,800	280	12,500
Employed	2,953,400	15,600	75,900	443,100	-530	16,300	27,800	-40	1,190	286,800	950	12,100
Unemployed	140,800	-10,160	2,000	14,100	-870	660	1,450	40	110	7,000	-680	400
Unemployment rate (%)	4.6	-0.3	0.0	3.1	-0.2	0.0	4.9	0.1	0.1	2.4	-0.2	0.1

	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Oct 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Oct 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Oct 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Oct 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	47,000	-250	950	42,500	-70	710	7,700	10	310	37,000	-1,370	1,140
Employed	44,700	-190	790	40,800	60	640	7,200	-10	310	35,800	-1,300	1,220
Unemployed	2,300	-60	160	1,650	-120	70	480	20	0	1,210	-70	-80
Unemployment rate (%)	5.0	-0.1	0.3	3.9	-0.3	0.1	6.2	0.2	-0.2	3.3	0.0	-0.3

** Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

The unemployment rate in **Dodge County** fell instead of rising as it usually does in October. Starting in June, the rate has been swinging by wider margins than usual, which signals unpredictability. There are still fewer manufacturing jobs than last October. Manufacturing appears closer to last year's job levels than it has been at any point this year, but this is largely due to last October's manufacturing employment decline being even steeper than this October's. Leisure & hospitality and education & health services are the only two sectors that have added a significant number of jobs between last October and this October, and they haven't added enough jobs to compensate for manufacturing losses. Last October, information, professional, business & other services shed jobs and this October it added jobs. While it remains below last year's levels, it has gone from being 260 jobs short of last year's figure (in July) to being just 10 jobs short (in October).

For the second month in a row, **Jefferson County** saw its unemployment rate drop more sharply than it usually does. At 0.8 percent above the typical October rate, unemployment is closer to normal than it has been at any time since last October. Despite posting the largest September-to-October job decline of any sector, leisure & hospitality still boasts the largest October-to-October gain of any sector. The only other sector to add over 100 jobs during the last year was retail & wholesale trade, which also has more seasonal and part-time jobs than other sectors. Despite upbeat reports at the national level, manufacturing has not yet seen much pickup locally and remains under the cloud of an ongoing labor dispute.

Rising more slowly than usual, **Marquette County's** unemployment rate is 1.2 percent higher than typical for October. Although 6.2 percent is still a high rate, it is closer to normal than the rates seen July through September. For each month of 2003, retail & wholesale trade has posted more jobs than the same month of 2002, but the 12-month growth has been quite modest. Manufacturing has been relatively flat for most of 2003 and maintains a slight increase over 2002. Education & health services continues to post fewer jobs than last year (as it has done since January), but is not as far below last year's level as it was in June or September. Leisure & hospitality expects to lose jobs in the fall, but the job estimates have gone from being nearly 50 over last year's level to just 10 over last year's level. Information, professional, business & other services has been fairly flat this year, and consistently below last year's levels.

Sauk County saw its unemployment rate remain stable, rather than rising as it usually does in October, leaving the rate very slightly below a typical October rate. In July, leisure & hospitality job estimates were more than 2,500 above last July's estimates; this October's estimates are just 850 above last October's. This suggests that many of the jobs added were seasonal. October was the first month of this year when the manufacturing estimate was greater than last year's, but this is largely attributable to last October's decline being steeper than this October's. This year's financial activities figures are lower than last year's, but the monthly changes continue to follow fairly similar patterns, except a softer decline this March.

Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Oct 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Oct 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Oct 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Oct 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,811,200	20,200	3,500	438,300	620	5,900	21,800	-150	490	306,900	2,400	5,700
Const., min'g & nat. resources	127,600	-800	-6,700	23,400	-160	760	1,230	0	60	16,100	0	600
Manufacturing	509,500	-5,000	-18,000	61,200	-1,530	-520	4,900	-80	-80	29,200	-900	800
Trade (wholesale & retail)	441,700	5,100	10,100	65,200	1,890	2,800	3,300	-150	60	44,900	1,900	2,600
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	106,300	700	-100	11,500	-90	-60	780	-60	20	7,600	0	1,300
Financial activities	158,400	-200	4,800	29,300	-100	1,280	590	0	60	25,700	-100	1,300
Education & health services	372,900	5,500	12,100	44,000	510	1,160	2,500	-20	30	29,100	400	1,000
Leisure & hospitality	241,300	-7,600	3,600	41,100	-2,100	1,640	2,500	-240	270	23,800	-300	100
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	435,300	300	5,700	68,700	270	1,410	2,100	-60	70	56,100	300	1,400
Government	418,200	22,200	-8,000	93,900	1,880	-2,600	3,900	450	0	74,400	1,200	-2,100

	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Oct 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Oct 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Oct 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Oct 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	33,600	-260	-120	35,400	40	-740	4,200	40	80	36,500	-1,450	450
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,400	-20	30	1,360	-20	80	260	0	10	2,000	-120	-20
Manufacturing	10,300	-340	-380	9,100	-10	-910	1,310	0	30	6,400	-210	10
Trade (wholesale & retail)	3,900	-20	-30	6,200	30	160	480	-10	20	6,500	140	20
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	1,030	20	10	1,210	40	-50	60	0	0	830	0	-40
Financial activities	700	-10	-40	970	10	30	120	0	0	1,250	-10	-80
Education & health services	4,200	30	190	4,500	60	-50	300	10	-10	3,300	30	0
Leisure & hospitality	2,800	-130	210	3,400	-150	210	500	-20	10	8,000	-1,200	850
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	3,000	110	-10	4,500	-50	-20	230	0	-20	2,800	-30	-20
Government	5,300	90	-100	4,100	140	-180	910	50	40	5,400	-50	-280

*Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision.

Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding.

Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.